

The Prentice Bulletin

Prentice Computer Centre
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16 May 1990

No 9

The End of an Era

Perhaps you remember dropping a box of punched cards, then spending hours collecting the cards and sorting them into order. Well, this is unlikely to happen ever again at the Prentice Computer Centre.

The punched card reading service provided by the Prentice Computer Centre is to be discontinued. The Card Reader which reads punched cards will be unplugged on 31 May 1990. It will no longer be available after this time.

The Card Reader was originally connected to the KA mainframe computer in the early 1970s when punched cards were the main form of input. In 1978, the KL mainframe computer was installed to replace the KA and the Card Reader was transferred to the new mainframe.

The Card Reader allowed the reading of both punched and mark sense cards, primarily for batch processing jobs.

The advent of interactive computing, first via terminals to timesharing systems and later to standalone PCs, has made the punched card an item of historical interest. Few people requested to have punched cards read at the Prentice Computer Centre last year.

We say this is the end of an era because there are very few card readers left in Australia. Punched cards have been used at the Centre for a quarter of a century so the removal of this service marks the end of an era in computing technology.

If you have punched cards and would like them read, take them to the Prentice Computer Centre before the Card Reader disappears. Enquiries should be directed to the Help Desk on 377 3025.

Backup Your PC!

Nearly finished that thesis? Almost completed your report? Spent years working on a project? That's great, but what would happen if you lost all that work?

Don't give yourself the chance to lose it. Backup the hard disk on your PC regularly. About half of the PC problems brought into the PC Support Group are to do with hard disks.

Trying to recover data from a faulty hard disk is time consuming, and therefore very expensive. As a result, we do not attempt to recover lost data unless the client is willing to pay for the time involved which can amount to hundreds, often, thousands of dollars. However, chances of recovery are still very low. This is a big problem for users who don't backup their work. For those who do, the problem is not as serious.

Network Connection

Backing up easily is one of the many benefits of being connected to the UQNET, the Campus Network. A network connection allows you very simply to keep your files or copies of your files on the mainframe computer. Your files are automatically backed up for you. All files are backed up every week, and changes you make to your files during the week are backed up every day.

You can keep all of your files on the mainframe, or you can choose to keep only your most important files. If you do not store all your files on the mainframe, you should have a floppy disk backup of them.

Benefits

While there is a small cost involved in holding mainframe space it does provide:

- Insurance against loss/damage to files
- If you have a problem with your PC, your files will be safe.
- A significant saving of your own time (or your secretary's time) in lots of disk copying every day, week, month, etc

Because backing up to floppy disks can be a tedious and time-consuming process, it is often neglected. It usually takes more than one disaster to teach users the importance of backing up.

- Secure storage of your file copies at a site remote from your own

If your building or office is destroyed, your important files are safe because they are located on the mainframe elsewhere on campus.

In the Meantime...

You can backup your PC to floppy disks if you don't have a mainframe account. However you do it, **make sure you backup!**

For More Information

Contact Network Engineering Group on 377 4307 if you want to know more about the Campus Network, UQNET. For mainframe accounts, contact Central Systems Accounts on 377 2188. Call PC Support Group on 377 4018 for floppy disk backup procedures.

Name Change

Prentice Computer Centre is now located in the Prentice Building. We haven't moved, the old Hawken Building has changed its name.

Accounts Have Moved

Central Systems Accounts have been relocated to the Reception Office on Ground Floor at the eastern end of the Prentice Building. All accounts enquiries may be directed to Jacqui or Carol on 377 2188.

Buy Word for Windows Through PCC

Microsoft Word for Windows is a full-featured and powerful word processing program that makes it easy to create long reports, research papers, class notes and other academic papers.

Word for Windows runs the popular Word wordprocessing package on IBM PCs (and compatibles) within the easy to use "windows" environment common to Macintosh PCs. This means users drive Word via the simple method of pulling down menus with a mouse rather than typing commands, to perform functions such as bolding and underlining.

The Academic Edition and Ednetpack are full-featured versions of the retail edition with exactly the same level of functionality. The Academic Edition is the package for staff and students to buy. The Ednetpack is for departmental use consisting of 10 sets of software and one set of manuals, a file server copy, and 10 user-licences. Prices are below:

Word for Windows
Academic Edition.....\$205

Word for Windows
Ednetpack.....\$805

Contact the PC Support Group on 377 4018 for information on how to place your order for Word for Windows.

PCC Courses

The Centre's current list of courses for mainframes and personal computers is kept online on all central machines for you to access at any time. You can inspect the list by entering:

UUQKL10: HELP COURSE
UQVAX: COURSE
UQVM: COURSES
BROLGA: MAN COURSE

Enrolments for all courses are made by telephoning 377 3018.

Going Cheap!

The Prentice Computer Centre has overstocked on ribbons and print wheels.

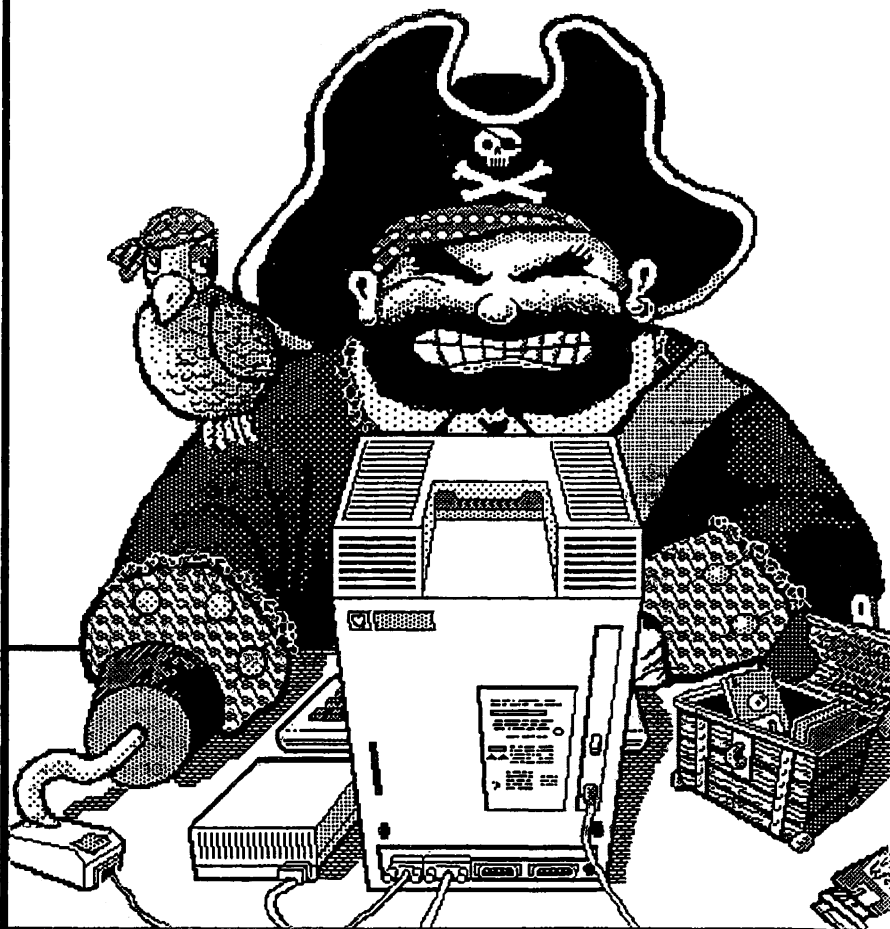
We have surplus carbon and cloth ribbons as well as print wheels (Courier 72 and Courier 10) for the Diablo and Facit high quality printers. If you're interested in buying these on a good deal, contact Jeff Scrivener on 377 3471.



PCC Telephones

General Enquiries	377 3018
Computer Help Desk	377 3025
PC Support Group	377 4018
PC Repairs	377 4018
Central Systems Accounts	377 2188
Course Enrolments	377 3018
Data Preparation	377 3967
Hardware Faults	377 3938
Network Faults	377 3938
Multiple Choice Test Marking Bookings	377 3025
Program Library	377 4075
Fax	371 8380
UQNET Dial-in Modems	
(300, 1200, 2400)	377 2977
(1200, 2400)	377 2922

Software Pirating is Illegal



*If in doubt about the legality of your software,
contact the PC Support Group, 377 4018.*